



## Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia

*Office of Legislative, Intergovernmental and Public Affairs*

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CONTACT: Robert Murphy  
**202-220-5343**

*Washington, DC* – In recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 22 to 28, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA) will launch its Victim Services Program on April 26, 2001. The new program features an innovative partnership with Verizon Wireless, which has donated ten cell phones for emergency distribution to victims of domestic violence.

CSOSA and Verizon Wireless will host an inaugural event for the program on April 26 at 9:30 a.m. at the Charles Sumner School, 1201 Seventeenth Street NW. Joyce N. Thomas, President of the Center for Child Protection and Family Support, will be the featured speaker. John Johnson, Director of Corporate Communications for Verizon Wireless, will present the phones to CSOSA at the event for donation to individual victims.

Verizon Wireless' donation will increase victims' ability to contact police immediately in an emergency domestic violence situation. CSOSA is pleased to welcome the partnership with the nation's largest wireless service provider to offer a service that can make an essential difference to crime victims. The event on April 26 will recognize Verizon Wireless' contribution to public safety in the District of Columbia.

CSOSA's Victim Services Program combines direct services for victims of crime with offender supervision practices aimed at maintaining victim awareness and safeguarding victims' rights. CSOSA's Community Supervision Officers will work with victims to develop individual intervention plans to ensure the victim's safety and security as offenders return to the community. Verizon Wireless' donation of cell phones to these individuals is an important aspect of that plan. In emergency cases, the victim will be given a phone to ensure that he or she maintains the ability to contact police and CSOSA's officers.

CSOSA is the new federal agency responsible for supervising all individuals on parole, probation, supervised release, and pretrial release in the District of Columbia.

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the criminal justice, victim advocacy, and faith-based communities will join together across America to promote continued progress in victim services. Jasper Ormond, Interim Director of CSOSA, said that the Agency's Victim Service Program makes an important statement to victims, offenders, and the community that victim rights are a priority. "This program embodies our commitment to serve the citizens of the District of Columbia through effective offender supervision," Mr. Ormond said. "By educating victims of their rights, we send a message to offenders that they will be held accountable for their actions."